

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: 0000021_Carved

Other known title(s): Not stated

OFLC ref: 2000307.020

Medium: Image File

Maker: Not stated

Country of origin: Not stated

Language: English

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification:	Objectionable.
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Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 26 November 2020

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 26 November 2020

Summary of reasons for decision:

The image file explicitly depicts characters from a well-known animated television series engaged in sexual activity; a father and his 4-year-old daughter. The image does not promote or support the exploitation of children or young persons under s3(2)(a) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993, but it does deal with sexual conduct involving a child, as well as incest, to a high extent and degree. The sexually explicit nature of the image and its likely intended purpose of arousing the viewer trivialises the sexual abuse of children. The illustrated format does not render it harmless. It has the clear potential for attitudinal harm by perpetuating the idea that child sexual abuse is an appropriate subject for titillation and amusement. There is a strong likelihood of injury to the public good from the trivialisation of such behaviour and attitudes, which is likely to have a detrimental effect on wider society. The right to freedom of expression affirmed by the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 has been considered. While adults have a right to access material that offers humour and sexual stimulation, the right does not extend to those whose availability is likely to be injurious to the public good. In this case the strong likelihood of injury cannot be adequately prevented by an age restriction. Therefore the objectionable classification is reasonable and demonstrably justified in order to prevent injury to the public good.